

09/768,726

Patent
Attorney Docket No. PD-200316
Customer No. 29190

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 5-7, 16, 22-25, 30-33, 42 and 48-58 are pending in the present application. By this amendment, claims 1, 3, 5-7, 16, 30-33, 42 and 52-55 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 22-25, 48-51 and 56-58 remain pending. No new matter is introduced.

The Office Action rejects claims 52-55 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *Dent* (US 6,023,477). Claims 52-55 have been canceled.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 5-6 and 30-32 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Nishimura* (US 6,493,360) in view of *Dent* (US 6,023,477). Claims 1, 5-6 and 30-32 have been canceled.

The Office Action rejects claims 3, 7 and 33 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Nishimura* (US 6,493,360) and *Dent* (US 6,023,477), and in further view of *Wakabayashi* (US 6,643,342). Claims 3, 7 and 33 have been canceled.

The Office Action rejects claims 16 and 42 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Wakabayashi* (US 6,643,342) in view of *Dent* (US 6,023,477). Claims 16 and 42 have been canceled.

The Office Action specifies that claims 22-25, 48-51 and 56-58 are allowed.

Applicants submit, therefore, the present application, as amended, is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration of this application is respectfully requested. If any unresolved issues remain, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned attorney at (301) 601-7252 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


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